[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

yet materialised. As a result thereof, discontentment among the people is mounting up.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Railways to personally intervene in the matter and do the needful in this regard without further delay.

(v) Need to lay Railway line between Tellicherry and Mysore via Coorg

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, the demand for a Railway line between Tellicherry and Mysore *via* Coorg has been pending for the last nine decades. The first survey on this route was initiated during the British regime by the South Indian Railway Co. This survey had to be abandoned midway due to the outbreak of the First World War. Thereafter, three more surveys were conducted before Independence. All these surveys go to show that this route is economically feasible and strategically important. The erstwhile Mysore State and Madras Presidency had strongly recommended this line. After Independence also, techno-economic feasibility surveys were conducted. By all standards, this railway line will help in developing Kerala and Karnataka. Thousands of trucks and hundreds of buses are plying on this route daily. The great potential for tourism in this part of Kerala and Karnataka attracts thousands of tourists every year. Ports of Calicut, Beypore, Tellicherry and Azhikkal could develop as a result of this line. Coorg, Wynad, Mysore and Cannanore have an abundance of cash crops. Trade and industry will prosper in this region by laying of this railway line. As of now, persons travelling from Tellicherry to Mysore have to take a round about route of about 600 kms. *via* Jolarpet whereas a Tellicherry-Mysore line *via* Coorg will shorten the distance to about 200 kms. Former Railway Ministers including late Lal Bahadur Shastri were convinced of the genuine necessity for such a track.

I request the hon. Railway Minister to give paramount importance to this century. old proposal.

(vi) Need to ensure that the people living below poverty line in Sitamarhi district, Bihar are issued 'red card' to draw ration at subsidised rates under Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Sir, the Union Government are distributing 10 kilogram wheat to each family living below the poverty line per month under Public Distribution System at half the rates. The State Governments issue 'red card' to the families identified as living below the poverty line. The rules are not being followed properly in issuing 'red cards' in Sitamarhi district of Bihar. The lands are not being issued to the landless agricultural labourers, small farmers, coolies, Rickshaw pullers etc. in rural areas due to which there is a lot of agitation and discontentment among rural people.

I request the Union Government that an inquiry may be conducted about all the red cards issued in Sitamarhi district to make Public Distributions System more effective and popular and to benefit the people living below poverty line and issue order for issuing the red cards to the deprived families.

(vii) Need to sanction ddequate funds for development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala

[English]

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Chirayinkil) : Sir, the Airport of Thiruvananthapuram lies in a very important international air route from the Southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere. It is one of the safest airports too. It was only in 1991 that the Trivandrum Airport was declared an International Airport, and this was the first airport in India after Independence to be declared international. A good number of foreign airlines are willing to operate from Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandum). Many others would like to use the airport for refueling and other services. But the developmental work of this airport is only at a snail's pace, which has led to the loss of crores of rupees every month. On the other hand, the passenger traffic is increasing even without much amenities due to lack of funds.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into this matter immediately and allocate sufficient funds for the development of the Thiruvanthapuram International Airport without any delay.

(viii) Need to set up an F.M. Radio Station at Manjeri in Kerala

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : There was proposal to set up an FM Radio Station in 'Manjeri', with 3 kv FM Transmitter and sufficient amount has been sanctioned for this project. The formalities of acquisition of land earmarked for the installation of the Radio Station have also been completed by the local people.

It is a matter of serious concern for the people of this region that an FM Radio Station has not so far been set up at Manjeri in Malappuram district of Kerala, which is the most backward area.

It has already been delayed and the Chief Engineer, AIR, Southern Zone should take expeditious steps to

start construction work of the building for the Radio Station at Manjeri which is a major project for Malappuram district of Kerala State. I therefore, urge upon the Government for expeditious implementation of this project.

14.17 hrs.

MOTION RE: ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON DALITS IN MUMBAI, NAGPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY—*Contd.*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir,...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, it would be appropriate had the hon. Home Minister or the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs were present during the discussion.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : Sir, I am present here.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, Mr. Yerrannaidu is there but the Government is unrepresented.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the Minister of State for Home Affairs is just coming within five minutes. He was just here.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I had begun my intervention yesterday and I had outlined the important aspects of this whole controversy by saying that there were three important aspects to the events of the 11th and subsequently, the attack on Shri Bhujbal's house and trying to find somebody to frame-up in this whole matter.

I am objecting to the attempt made by the Sate Government and the Shiv Sena leaders to justify this shoot-out. I have already gone over the matter of the tanker and I do not want to repeat it. But I will come back later and try to tell the hon. Home Minister and the House why the Shiv Sena Leadership wants to justify this brutal killings of the Dalits.

There is an attempt to find some scapegoat, try to fix the responsibility and frame somebody. I will now go ahead and show how many different theories have been propagated by the Shiv Sena Leaders, the Shiv Sena MPs and anybody who was connected with that Government. I will just recount a series of what you call red-herring, an attempt to divert attention, trying to put the blame on somebody in the Congress, somebody in the RPI or somebody in the Assembly.

Why is the judicial enquiry on? I do not know why this attempt is there to politicise this issue and try to find somebody to pin down the blame. Are the Shiv Sena leaders guilty of something? Are they afraid that something would be found in this inquiry?

I will now proceed to show how many different theories are there.

The first theory is that immediately after the police firing the Congressmen reached there. Shri Bhujbal went there immediately. Later on, the AICC delegation led by our Deputy Leader Shri G. Venkat Swamy went there. Shrimati Meera Bhai went there. They were all welcomed. The *dalits* who have been traumatised met all these people but nobody from the Government, nobody from the BJP or the Shiv Sena was allowed to go there. They were not allowed to get down from their cars. So, a theory is being propagated that because the Congress men were allowed to go there, they must be in league with somebody who had garlanded the statue.

Sir, I will now quote from a letter written by Shri Sanjay Nirupam, a very respected and an honourable Member of Parliament of Shiv Sena. He is a very close associate of the Shiv Sena leader. He has written a letter on behalf of the North Indian population living in Mumbai to the Governor of Maharashtra and he has been kind enough to circulate a copy of his letter to us. This is a 'Congress conspiracy theory'. The letter says :

> "We strongly feel that the whole act has been engineered by the Congress. It is evident by the initial investigations by police and circumstantial evidence, so far the identified suspects are known to be close associates of the Opposition Leader."

I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs whether he knows that...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we name anybody in our speech, they disturb and interrupt. Then, why is Prithviraj naming Shri Sanjay Nirupam here?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : He has written a letter to me, I am quoting that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am quoting the letter of Shri Sanjay Nirupam written to the Governor of Maharashtra.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Home Affairs certain questions. Are there initial suspects? Does he know about initial suspects? The HOme Minister, in his